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## **NBC SPORTS & CHURCHILL DOWNS TO DEBUT *ROAD TO THE KENTUCKY DERBY* MAGAZINE SERIES IN SPRING 2019**

### **NBC Sports, The Home of Horse Racing in U.S., Adds Two 2019 Triple Crown Prep Races with Live Coverage of Louisiana Derby & Arkansas Derby on NBCSN**

**STAMFORD, Conn. and LOUISVILLE, Kentucky (Thursday, Nov. 8, 2018)** – As the home of horse racing in the United States, **NBC Sports** will expand its programming in 2019, collaborating with **Churchill Downs** on a new magazine-style series, and adding a pair of crucial prep races.

In partnership with Churchill Downs, NBC Sports will debut a new *Road to the Kentucky Derby* series this spring, leading up to NBC's coverage of the 145<sup>th</sup> Kentucky Derby presented by Woodford Reserve on Saturday, May 4. In March, **NBCSN** will debut the first of the four 30-minute *Road to the Kentucky Derby* episodes, which will showcase the stars of the sport, telling the stories behind the horses and the legendary race. Produced by Churchill Downs, the episodes will provide viewers with an inside look of the extensive preparations for the first leg of the Triple Crown. **Keith Wetzler**, Executive Producer of Broadcast at Churchill Downs, will produce the series.

In addition, NBC Sports will add the \$1 million Louisiana Derby and the \$1 million Arkansas Derby to its lineup of 2019 Triple Crown prep races on NBCSN next spring. The first episode of the new *Road to the Kentucky Derby* series will debut following the Louisiana Derby on March 23.

NBCSN is now home to the six biggest prep races in 2019, leading up to NBC Sports' coverage of the "Run for the Roses" at Churchill Downs on the first Saturday in May. A month of key prep race coverage on NBCSN begins with the Louisiana Derby on Saturday, March 23, followed one week later by the Florida Derby on Saturday, March 30. Coverage continues on NBCSN with "triplecast" coverage of the Wood Memorial, the Blue Grass Stakes, and the Santa Anita Derby on Saturday, April 6, before the Arkansas Derby on Saturday, April 13.

On Saturday, March 23 at 5:30 p.m. ET, NBCSN will televise the \$1 million Louisiana Derby from Fair Grounds Race Course in New Orleans. Last year's victor, **Noble Indy**, won by a head over **Lone Sailor** in a wild finish, and went on to run in both the 2018 Kentucky Derby and Belmont Stakes.

Coverage of the \$1 million Arkansas Derby, the final prep race before the Kentucky Derby, will begin on Saturday, April 13 at 7 p.m. ET on NBCSN from Oaklawn Park in Hot Springs, Arkansas. The most celebrated champion of the Arkansas Derby, **American Pharoah** in 2015, went on to become the first Triple Crown winner in 37 years.

NBC Sports' coverage of the 2019 horse racing season begins with the Pegasus World Cup Invitational on Saturday, Jan. 26 at 4:30 pm ET on NBC.

**Below is NBC Sports Group's 2019 prep race schedule leading up to the 2019 Kentucky Derby (All Times ET):**

Sat., March 23	5:30 p.m.	Louisiana Derby	NBCSN
Sat., March 30	6 p.m.	Florida Derby	NBCSN
Sat., April 6	5:30 p.m.	Wood Memorial, Blue Grass Stakes & Santa Anita Derby	NBCSN
Sat., April 13	7 p.m.	Arkansas Derby	NBCSN
Sat., May 4	4 p.m.	Kentucky Derby	NBC

**NBC Sports Group and Horse Racing:** NBC Sports Group is the exclusive home to the most important and prestigious events in horse racing, including the Triple Crown and the Breeders' Cup. NBC has been the exclusive home of the Kentucky Derby and the Preakness Stakes since 2001, and the Belmont Stakes since 2011, when NBC Sports Group reassembled the Triple Crown.

**About Churchill Downs Racetrack:** Churchill Downs, the world's most legendary racetrack, has conducted Thoroughbred racing and presented America's greatest race, the Kentucky Derby, continuously since 1875. Located in Louisville, the flagship racetrack of Churchill Downs Incorporated (NASDAQ: CHDN) offers year-round simulcast wagering at the historic track. Churchill Downs will conduct the 145th running of the Kentucky Derby Presented by Woodford Reserve on May 4, 2019. Information is available at [www.ChurchillDowns.com](http://www.ChurchillDowns.com).

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